

*In search of...*

# Truth & Right

Volume 10 Issue 26

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## Shorter Days

"Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed." (Rom. 13:11)

I'm not sure if you were aware of it or not (I was not until someone else pointed it out to me), but this year's summer solstice already happened. In fact, it was a week ago today, on June 21<sup>st</sup>. That was the longest day of the year, which also means that since that day, the daylight hours have been slowly shrinking. Yes, until late December, the days will get shorter and shorter, with less light. That kind of sounds depressing when you think about it; however, my aim is not to put you in a dour mood. Rather, I am using the literal hours of daylight to illustrate the principle found in the Bible verse above. The days are short because Jesus will be coming again and the end of this life is getting closer and closer.

So many of the songs we sing from our hymnals express this same thought: "Jesus Is Coming Soon," "It

Won't Be Very Long," "There's A Great Day Coming," "When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder," and so on. When we sing those songs and others, what thoughts go through your mind? What feelings do you have regarding the words that you are singing? Perhaps a better question to ask is, how often in your life do you really stop and consider the fact that Jesus will come again, as He promised, and on that day, this life (this whole world) will come to an end? If the only time that someone ever thought about the return of Christ was for a few minutes on Sunday, or maybe on Wednesday, how sad that would be!

No matter your answers to the questions above, neither you nor I can change the facts:

### **1. Jesus will come again.**

"and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood and made us a

kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of Him. Even so. Amen." (Rev. 1:5-6)

**2. None of us knows when that will be. Even Jesus Himself said that He does not know, nor do the angels, but only the Father.**

"And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." (Matt. 25:10-13)

**3. When He returns, it will end this life, and after judgment, eternity will begin.**

"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed." (2 Pet. 3:10)

Sadly, at that moment, it will be too late to repent. No matter how desperately people will want to obey God and find His favor, it will be to no avail. The time for us to make sure that we believe in God, trust in His Word, and are obeying His commandments is NOW. All anyone ever gets is one lifetime, and sometimes those are very short. We all need to be making sure that we are making the best use of the time that God is giving to us and living each and

every day for Him, not for ourselves. If we are honest with ourselves, I am sure that we can all admit to times when we have been selfish and wasting our precious lives with frivolous (and most likely outright sinful) pursuits.

That is why we can see the admonition of the apostle Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, "so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry." (1 Pet. 4:2-3) If you have not been living your life in accordance with God's will, wake up! So many think that it is *their* life and that *they* are the only ones in charge of it, not realizing that they are serving Satan and playing right into his hand! The devil hates God and hates us and is trying his hardest to keep us away from our heavenly Father who loves us.

On a day to day basis, do you consider yourself as someone who is looking forward to and hastening the day of the Lord? In practical terms, that means you would be looking at the world around you, being grieved by the sin and corruption, and wishing that you could be in Heaven with Jesus and the Father. The thing is, it is easy for any of us to say, "Well, sure, I'd rather be in Heaven," but how much would we mean it? By our actions, we may very well be showing that we are comfortable right here on earth and don't want to imagine living without the internet or television or our favorite sport or hobby. Looking at one's attitudes and actions tells us a lot as to whether this world is their

home or not.

Knowing that Jesus is going to return, and knowing that it could be at any time is a profound realization. It could, depending on your spiritual situation, be a thrilling prospect full of hope and longing. Alternatively, it could fill you with terror and panic. Remember, the days are short! So, you could try to rush and fill them up with all the pleasures of this life before the clock runs out (sowing wild oats, so to speak). But to do so is to play Russian roulette with your soul. The wiser course of action would be to make sure that every day counts and that you are walking in a right relationship with your Creator.

"So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil." (2 Cor. 5:6-10)

It might be easy to fool ourselves into thinking that we have all the time in the world. After all, we make plans for next week, next month, and even years down the road, so why not act like we will still be here to keep those plans? Truly, we need to realize that the days are shorter and that as of right this very moment, we have less time to repent and serve God than we ever have. What are you going to do with the little amount of time we have left?

Jarred Currence

Happy Moments,  
*Praise God.*

Difficult Moments,  
*Seek God.*

Quiet Moments,  
*Worship God.*

Painful Moments,  
*Trust God.*



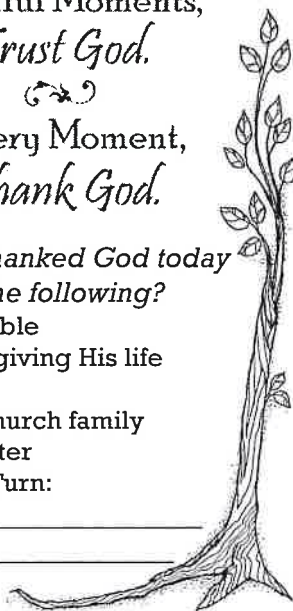
Every Moment,  
*Thank God.*

*Have you thanked God today  
for any of the following?*

- The Bible
- Jesus giving His life for us
- Our church family
- Laughter
- Your Turn:

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# BIBLE Trivia!

**DIRECTIONS:** After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

**1. What person saw the angel of the Lord in the form of a flame?**

- a) Joshua
- b) Moses
- c) Lot
- d) Timothy

**2. Which psalm is a lament of the exiles in Babylon?**

- a) Psalm 137
- b) Psalm 101
- c) Psalm 126
- d) None of them

**3. Who asked Jesus for the special water that would quench her thirst forever?**

- a) Lydia
- b) Mary Magdalene
- c) Chloe
- d) The Samaritan woman

**4. This traveling companion of Paul was considered a prophet.**

- a) Luke
- b) Epaphroditus
- c) Silas
- d) Timothy

**5. Where were Joseph's bones finally buried?**

- a) At Hebron
- b) At Shechem
- c) At Kadesh
- d) At Gibeah

**6. According to Paul, who takes away the "veil" over the Old Testament?**

- a) The Father
- b) A gospel preacher
- c) The Holy Spirit
- d) Christ

**7. How did Jesus heal the two blind men who asked for His help?**

- a) He spat on their eyes
- b) He prayed over them
- c) He touched their eyes
- d) He told them to be healed

**8. Whom did God ask, "Doest thou well to be angry?"**

- a) Haman
- b) Jonah
- c) David
- d) Samson

**9. What priest gave David the ritual bread when David fled from Saul?**

- a) Ahimelech
- b) Abijah
- c) Levi
- d) Zadok

**10. In what city in Greece did a group of Jews whip up a company of thugs in an anti-Paul riot?**

- a) Corinth
- b) Athens
- c) Thessalonica
- d) Thebes

## **LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS & VERSES:**

- 1) D, Reference: Ezra, Ezekiel
- 2) C, Reference: Mark 6:45-50
- 3) A, Reference: Romans 16:12
- 4) B, Reference: Isaiah 28:16
- 5) D, Reference: Ecclesiastes 9:4

- 6) C, Reference: Acts 16:9
- 7) A, Reference: Genesis 49:12
- 8) D, Reference: John 2:1-10
- 9) B, Reference: Genesis 27:22
- 10) A, Reference: Acts 17:22-23